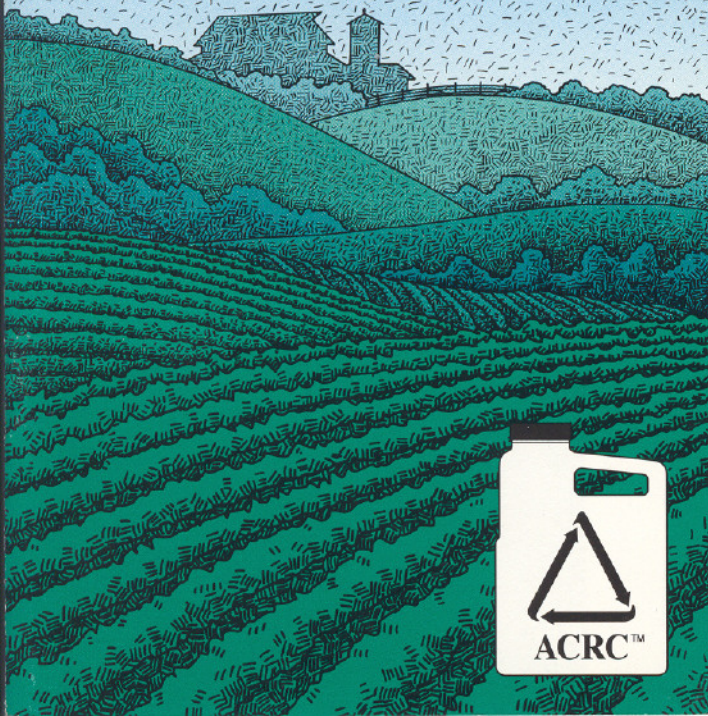


Recycling Crop Protection Product Containers

A Program Of The
Agricultural Container Research Council



Everyone Benefits From Recycling

Don't throw away those plastic crop protection product containers—recycle them! It's the right thing to do!

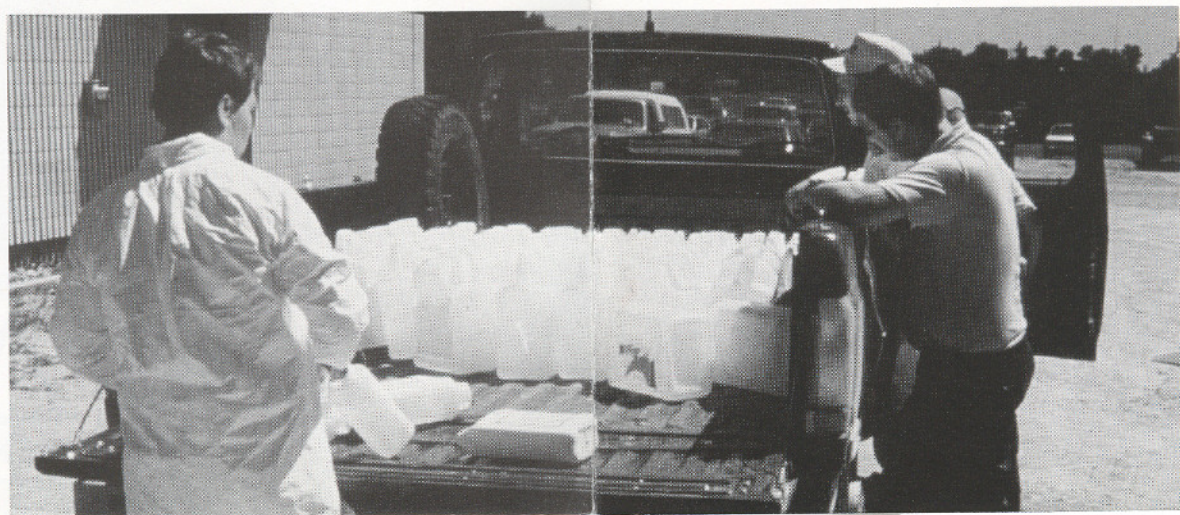
When you use crop protection products—such as Environmental Protection Agency registered agricultural, turf, forestry, vegetative management, and specialty pest control products (excluding consumer packages), as well as adjuvants, crop oil, and surfactants—you can recycle the plastic containers they are packaged in.

Did you know that U.S. agriculture uses nearly thirty-five million plastic containers a year? *Thirty-five million containers!* Too many of these containers still go into landfills or are disposed of improperly, when they could be recycled instead.

The crop protection product industry is working to reduce the

number of one-way containers. With support from state agricultural and environmental groups, container collection for recycling is now a reality in most states—and it's increasing. In 1993, over 2.6 million pounds of containers were taken from approved sites for recycling.

By recycling containers, you not only put a valuable resource back into productive use, you keep the environment cleaner. Everyone needs to be responsible.



Let's Make Recycling A Reality

The Agricultural Container Research Council (ACRC) is the cooperative effort of crop protection product producers, packagers, dealers, distributors, plastic container manufacturers, and states to make plastic container recycling a reality.

The ACRC actively supports recycling programs in the United States by:

- ◇ working closely with state and federal agencies to assist in establishing new collection efforts,

- ◇ providing state agencies with audio-visual materials, in both English and Spanish, that teach proper container rinsing and inspection procedures,

- ◇ providing contractors to granulate and transport containers from collection sites to approved recyclers.

Don't throw away your plastic crop protection product containers —rinse them properly and take them to an approved collection center.

This brochure will explain what you need to know to participate in this container program:

- ◇ how to properly rinse containers,
- ◇ where to obtain information on collection centers in your region, and
- ◇ research that will determine environmentally acceptable uses for collected plastic containers.



Proper Rinsing Is The Key

A successful collection program starts with the crop protection product user.

The first step is to thoroughly rinse all residues from the containers immediately after use. **Only dry, properly rinsed containers are accepted at collection sites.**

Why is proper rinsing important?

◇ It is required by law.

◇ It gives you full value for your product dollar.

◇ **Properly rinsed containers are classified as clean, solid waste.**

How do you make sure your containers are properly rinsed? First, read the product label; then, follow these guidelines.



For Pressure Rinsing

1. Empty contents of container into spray tank, turning the container so that any product trapped in the handle is allowed to flow out. Once flow is down to a drip, allow the container to drain for an additional 30 seconds.

2. **Immediately** begin rinsing procedures or the product may become difficult to remove.

3. Hold the container so the opening can drain into the spray tank.

4. Force tip of the pressure nozzle through the lower portion of the side closest to the handle.

5. Connect nozzle to a clean water source of at least 40 psi. Turn the nozzle inside the container to assure good coverage of all sides, including the handle.

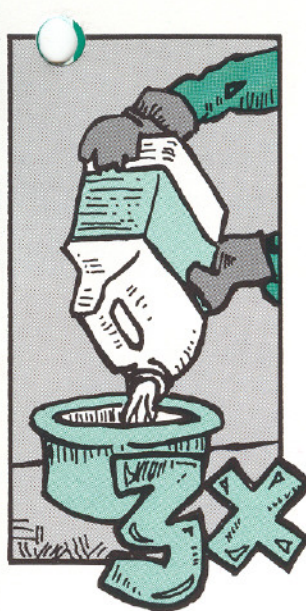
6. Rinse for at least 30 seconds.

7. Drain all rinse water into the spray tank.

For Triple Rinsing

1. Empty contents of container into spray tank, turning the container so that any product trapped in the handle is allowed to flow out. Once flow is down to a drip, allow the container to drain for an additional 30 seconds.

2. **Immediately** begin rinsing procedures or the product may become difficult to remove.



Container caps usually are not recyclable, so they should be rinsed thoroughly and disposed of properly. Don't put caps back on containers.

Store empty, clean containers out of the rain prior to collection site delivery to prevent inspectors from mistaking rainwater for residue and rejecting the containers.

The types of one-way containers accepted into the ACRC recycling program are: EPA-registered agricultural, turf, forestry, vegetative management, and specialty pest control product containers (excluding consumer packages), as well as containers for adjuvants, crop oil, surfactants, fertilizers, and micro-nutrients.

Where to Find Approved Collection Centers in Your Area

To find the location of the center nearest you, call any one of the following:

- ◇ Your state environmental regulatory agency
- ◇ The Agricultural Container Research Council at 202-682-4745

3. Fill empty container 1/4 full of water.

4. Replace the cap on the container. With the container opening facing left, shake the container left to right over a distance of four to six inches. Shake the container about twice per second for 30 seconds.

5. Drain rinse water into spray tank as previously described.

6. Fill the container 1/4 full with clean water a second time.

7. Recap the container. With the opening of the container pointed towards the ground, shake the container as described before. Then drain the rinse water into the spray tank.

8. Finally, fill the container 1/4 full once more with clean water.

9. Recap the container. With the container in the normal, upright position, shake the container as you did before, 30 seconds with a four to six inch vertical motion, twice per second.

10. Pour the rinse water into the spray tank. Carefully rinse and spray residue from the outside of the container.

New Life For Collected Crop Protection Product Containers

Collected plastic can be used as a valuable "new" resource. Today it is being used as an energy alternative. HDPE has a higher Btu value than coal (nearly two times) and burns cleaner than coal.

The ACRC is conducting research into acceptable end uses of recycled crop protection product containers.

Though testing and evaluation of each possible use takes time and money, the crop protection product industry has identified many exciting possibilities. For instance, some collected resin already is going back into the production of crop protection product containers.



Who Is The ACRC?

The Agricultural Container Research Council was formed in 1992 to promote the collection and recycling of empty plastic crop protection product containers into innovative, environmentally sound end uses.

The ACRC is funded through a cooperative effort among major crop protection product manufacturers, formulators, distributors, dealers, packagers, plastic container manufacturers, and others in the ag industry.

The organization supports state-level container collection programs, and works closely with the EPA, state environmental regulatory agencies, and departments of agriculture and natural resources. ACRC works directly with contractors to granulate and transport flaked containers from state-approved sites.

In addition, the ACRC conducts extensive research to identify acceptable end uses for recycled container plastic.

The Agricultural Container Research Council is a non-profit, non-political organization that encourages the proper management of plastic crop protection product containers.

Agricultural Container Research Council

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Where To Find Approved Collection Centers In Your Area

To find the location of the center nearest you, call any one of the following:

- ◇ Your state environmental regulatory agency
- ◇ The Agricultural Container Research Council Program Administrator at 202-682-4745
- ◇ The National Agricultural Chemicals Association at 202-296-1585
- ◇ The Alliance for a Clean Rural Environment at 800-545-5410

How To Obtain ACRC Program Information

For general information and educational materials, contact the ACRC at 202-682-4745.

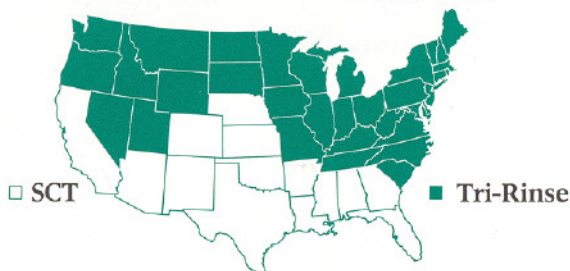
For collection and program information, contact Rob Denny, ACRC Program Administrator, at 202-682-4745.

ACRC Collection Contractors

Collection contractors are hired by the ACRC to take ownership of approved containers at the collection site, grind them into flakes (usually on-site) and transport them to downstream recyclers or approved storage sites. ACRC collection contractors will accept only containers that are certified to be visually clean and properly rinsed.

The collection center's responsibilities end as soon as the properly rinsed containers have been turned over to the ACRC official contractor.

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314-647-8338



The Agricultural Container Research Council is a cooperative effort funded by voluntary assessments among responsible major crop protection product manufacturers, formulators, distributors, dealers, packagers and others in the ag industry.

American Cyanamid Co.	Griffin Corp.
BASF Corp.	ISK Biotech Corp.
Cedar Chemical Co.	Agricultural Division
Cenex/Land-O-Lakes	Miles, Inc.
Ciba Plant Protection	Nor-Am Agr Evo
Division	PBI/Gordon Corp.
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